

Rio Bianco

Description:

Rio Bianco is a very steep tributary of Rio Patoc, located under the mountain Monte Jovet in Western Julian Alps. The environment is extremely wild, steep and when you pull the rope down, you have to realize that, there is no exit until almost to the end of the canyon. The first part consists of huge drops with exposed belay stations in an open environment while the second part is more narrow. I can say only that it was exploring of this creek a one big adventure, so you can conclude for what kind of canyoneers is that canyon. If you still have power left you can continue your trip down Rio Patoc.

Canyon is not suitable for beginners!

Zone:

Italy – Friuli – Val Racollana – Canal del Ferro

Dimensions:

Entrance: 1200m

Exit: 600 m

Height: 600 m

Length: 900 m

Period

March - November (Best done after rain or when the snow melting.)

Times:

Approach: 1,15 h

Progression: 4 h

Return: 25 min

Shuttle:

No (Shuttle is only necessary if you continue down Rio Patoc.)

Equipment:

Mostly expedition (with 10mm bolts and ropes on trees), 120m waterfall is equipped better. **It would be necessary to add a one bolt on top of the 70m cascade and one at the intermediate anchorage!**

Rope:

2 x 70m and 1 x 60m

Highest waterfall:

120 m

Possible exit

One, just before the last three drops.

Maps:

Carta Tabacco 27

Attraction:

Local (regional with Patoc)

Difficulty:

V5 – V6 a2 V

Access:

From Chiusaforte take the road to Sella Nevea and exit this road in direction of Patocco. Drive up the many narrow switchbacks until you reach a big parking place below the church.

Approach:

Follow the marked path 620 in direction of Cuel de la Baretta. When you reach a table with some benches stay on the left part. After a long traverse you reach the two branches of Rio Bianco. Due to deep snow we only bolted the right (western) branch. The left (eastern) branch has more water and about three drops till the confluence.

Description of the canyon:

C 22m: tree with yellow rope (L)

C 35m: 1 bolt with ring (R)

Orographic left branch of the creek enters

D 5m

C 45m: tree with rope (R)

D 15m in short narrow part

C 16m: tree with rope (L), you have to cross to the right side of the waterfall where you find the chain 4m below the lip of the fall on the right

C 58m: 2 bolts with chain (R) - (space for max. 2 people - hanging) start of the **120m casade**

C 63m: 2 bolts with ring (R) rappel on the right of the waterfall, space for 2 people – hanging (possible for max. 4 people but you will need some very long slings)

C 30m from tree - unequipped (L) or bypass on the left and downclimb on the right until you reach the main branch of the canyon

D+w 100m start of a narrow canyon

C 6m: 1 bolt with rope (R)

D 15m

C 16m: 1 bolt with rope (R) - a bit high on the right

D 20m (smooth rock, a bit tricky)

End of the narrow part

40m of walking

Canyon narrows again

C 18m: tree with rope (L)

C 20m: rope on boulder (center) - rappel over several whitewashed pools

C 23m: 1 bolt with ring (L) – start of the **70 m cascade**

C 47m: 1 bolt with ring (L) tiny ledge on the left, space for 2 persons – hanging (space for one)

D + W 60m - just before the next waterfall a path crosses the canyon (escape possible to the left - but exposed at parts)

C 33m: tree with rope (L)

D 10m - slide below hanging rock

D 15m: 1 bolt with sling (L)

D 12m: 1 bolt with maillon (R)

200m of walking till Rio Patoc

RETURN:

Follow the marked path upstream to the parking lot. Don't follow the many signs for Giro de Patocco, stay on the broad path instead. If you decide to descent Rio Patoc stay in the creekbed, there is a nice little canyon part right after the confluence. After this part you can stay on the marked path until you reach the bridge which marks the entry to the lower canyon of Rio Patoc.

C = cascade

D = down climb

D+W = down climbing and walking

S = shout (jump)

T = slide

L = left

R = right

MC= hand line (traverse)

Note:

First descent by Canyoning Cult (David Sefaj, Robert Žerovec, Tom Prettner and Georg Buol) on 26.03.2016